



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

TB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/530,983	05/08/2000	GUSTAVO DECO	P000861	5072

21171 7590 07/01/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

OROPEZA, FRANCES P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3762

21

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/530,983

Applicant(s)

DECO ET AL.

Examiner

Frances P. Oropeza

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/5/03 (Amendment).
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are convincing, accordingly the rejections of record are withdrawn and a new grounds of rejection is established in the subsequent paragraphs. As the new rejection relies on the prior art of record, response to the Applicant's arguments is provided as appropriate.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 10 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ravdin et al. (US 5862304) is withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 4-9 and 11-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ravdin et al. (US 5862304) in view of Abrams et al. (US 6117066) is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1-3, 10, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ravdin et al. (US 5862304) in view of Smyth (US 5465321).

Ravdin et al. disclose a method for predicting the future occurrence of non-existent medical conditions, including medical conditions such as psychiatric problems (col. 3 @ 19-27). Data is evaluated to predict the future occurrence of the medical condition that has not yet occurred using a neural network to analyze the data (Abstract). Once the neural network is trained, test data is used to predict the future occurrence of the disease or medical condition (col. 2 @ 43-50). The prediction of the medical condition enables selection of appropriate therapy (col. 1 @ 15-28). The data processing utilizes a neural network to predict the future occurrence of non-existent medical conditions. The data processing by the neural

network entails successive data iterations, read to be using a continuous information flow, to make successful predictions of patient relapse (col. 9 @ 49-52).

As discussed in the previous paragraph of this action, Ravdin et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the information flow describing a development of a predictability of plural future system states.

Smyth teaches future state prediction using evaluation of a temporal, hierarchical pattern of information flow for the purpose of predicting future outcomes, hence enabling robust decision making. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a temporal, hierarchical pattern of information flow for the purpose of predicting future outcomes in the Ravdin et al. system in order to continuously utilize the monitored data to increase the speed and accuracy of predicted future states (abstract; col. 2 @ 37-50; col. 5 @ 46 – col. 6 @ 8).

3. Claims 4-9 and 11-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ravdin et al. (US 5862304) in view of Smyth (US 5465321) and further in view of Abrams et al. (US 6117066). As discussed in paragraph 2 of this action, modified Ravdin et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the nature of the implemented action being excitation of the system with a chaotic signal, a noise signal or a regular signal supplied by an electric or magnetic field via an electrode.

Abrams et al. disclose a treatment for certain neurological and psychiatric disorders discussing the historical use of pulsed electrical current (col. 1 @ 38 – col. 3 @ 4) and an alternate approach using electrodes (10-13) to provide pulsed magnetic fields with varying

Art Unit: 3762

intensity (col. 4 @ 61 – col. 5 @ 19). The signals provided would be classified as a chaotic signal, a noise signal or a regular signal depending on the intensity and impact of the signal. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method for predicting the future occurrence of non-existent medical conditions as taught by modified Ravdin et al., with the nature of the implemented action being excitation of the system with a chaotic signal, a noise signal or a regular signal supplied by an electric or magnetic field via an electrode as taught by Abrams et al. to provide proven means to effectively treat neurological and psychiatric disorders (abstract; col. 1 @ 13-17).

As to the motivation to combine Ravdin et al. and Abrams et al., the Applicant appears to argue, but not admit, that even though the reference may pertain to similar subject matter, the references are not combinable unless the references suggest the desirability of the combination. This argument is confusing to the Examiner because in the Advisory Action and previous office action (Paper No. 17), the Examiner cited lines from both references in an attempt to explain the rationale for combining the references, hence the motivation to combine the references is viewed as being suggested by the references based on the cited passages. As noted above and in previous communications, the reference are deemed combinable because Ravdin et al. (US 5862304) “disclose a method to predict a medical condition (col. 1 @ 9-11), that medical condition being cancer or psychiatric problems (col. 3 @ 18-28), so appropriate therapy can be selected (col. 1 @ 25-28)” and Abrams et al. (US 6117066) “teach desirable/ effective

Art Unit: 3762

treatments for psychiatric disorders (abstract; col. 1 @ 13-17)", read as teaching appropriate therapy for psychiatric problems."

Statutory Basis

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Fran Oropeza whose telephone number is (703) 605-4355. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Angela D. Sykes can be reached on (703) 308-5181. The fax phone numbers for the

Art Unit: 3762

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 306-4520 for regular communication and (703) 306-4520 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

Frances P. Oropeza
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3762

fpb
6/19/03

Angela D. Sykes

ANGELA D. SYKES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700